

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027800

FOL THE HAGUE 0059 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRASILIA
LONDON VIENNA JAN 5, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 59

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, PARM, TECH, NL

SUBJECT: ALMELO ENLARGEMENT AND URENCO FUEL SUPPLY TO BRAZIL

REF: THE HAGUE 0038

1. AT THE END OF A CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON OTHER MATTERS, MFA
POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL RUTTEN MENTIONED THE ALMELO ENLARGE-
MENT ISSUE IN A WAY SUGGESTING THAT SOME LOOSE ENDS MAY STILL
REMAIN. IN PARTICULAR, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME QUESTION WHETHER
GERMANS ARE AS YET ON BOARD. RUTTEN ALSO HINTED AT POSSIBILITY
THAT GOVERNMENT PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY BEHIND
PROSPECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRAZIL. APPARENTLY, IN CONTRAST
TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S INSISTENCE ON
BRAZILIAN ACCEPTANCE OF STRICT SAFEGUARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL
STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 027800

REGIME, POSITION OF NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATES ONLY A
REQUEST BY CONSORTIUM PARTNERS FOR BRAZIL NOW TO AGREE "IN
PRINCIPLE" TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

2. COMMENT: IN RESPONSES TO PRESS QUESTIONS JAN 4, WE
NOTICED CONSIDERABLE TO AND FRO-ING ON THE PART OF THE MFA
SPOKESMAN. IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AS IF PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT

MAY HAVE JUMPED THE GUN NOT ONLY IN ASSUMING AGREEMENT OF THE
BRITISH AND GERMANS TO THE DUTCH PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING BRAZIL
BUT ALSO IN PREEMPTING PARLIAMENT WHICH HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED IT
WOULD HAVE A SAY PRIOR TO FINAL DECISION. WHEN IT DEBATES
THE ISSUE, PARLIAMENT MAY WELL VENT ITS DISPLEASURE AT HAVING
BEEN IN EFFECT LOCKED OUT OF A POLICY DECISION IN WHICH THE
PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED IT A ROLE.
MCCLOSKEY UNQUOTE VANCE

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